

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

As President, I am acutely aware that the American people have a right to know, via a free press, what their government is doing so that they can render informed judgment of their elected officials via the ballot box.

I am also aware of my responsibility to lead this nation effectively, so that the welfare and security of the American people can be guaranteed.

Unfortunately, a pattern has developed in recent years which is directly hampering the development and implementation of an effective foreign policy for the United States. This pattern has manifested itself in a flow of unauthorized, highly sensitive information to the news media. In many such cases, the public appearance of such information rules out an option, or jeopardizes an ongoing policy.

I fully recognize the tension inherent in our system, wherein a free press is encouraged to collect and print whatever it believes to be in the public interest. The government for its part has the responsibility to protect certain categories of information, the revelation of which harms the interests of this country. The measures to be implemented by this Directive should not be construed as criticism of the press. The press has been doing its job--collecting information--better than the government has been doing its job--protecting national security information. The limited measures discussed below are designed to restore

NSC review completed.

a balance that has been lost. They are not designed to protect officials who seek to hide behind a classification stamp.

I realize that the measures in this Directive, limited though they are, will cause controversy. I urge that all concerned, media personnel, government employees, and the American people at large, recognize that these measures are clearly necessary and that the end result will be a more effective government still reported and interpreted closely by a free and vigorous press.